



January 2012

The New Big Flats Times
P.O. Box 449
Big Flats, NY 14814

Issue 20

Town Information:

- **Municipal Campus:**
476 Maple Street,
Big Flats
- **Town Hall:**
Monday—Friday,
8 am to 4 pm
562-8443, Ext. 201
- **Community Center:**
Office hours are
Monday—Friday,
8 am to 4 pm
Building Staffed:
Monday—Friday,
8 am to 9 pm
562-8443, Ext. 303

Big Flats Town Board:

Supervisor	Teresa Dean
Council	Edward Fairbrother
Council	Andy Gillette
Council	Mike Smith
Council	Mike Saglibene
Town Clerk	Linda Cross
Meetings	2nd Wednesday at 4:30 pm 4th Wednesday at 7:00 pm

What does New York's Property Tax Levy Cap Mean to Me?

In June 2011, state leaders responded by enacting a law that places new restrictions on counties, cities, towns, villages, fire school and special districts may increase their tax levies.

What is the property tax cap? The tax cap law establishes a limit on the annual growth of property taxes levied by local governments and school districts to 2% or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. *What is subject to the tax cap?* The cap applies to all independent school dis-

tricts outside of the Big Five Cities and all governments including counties, cities, towns, villages and special districts. The cap does not apply to New York City.

Is there an override mechanism to the tax cap? The tax levy cannot exceed the cap unless 60 percent of the total voting power of the governing body approves such increase.

How is the tax levy limit determined? We have an eight-step formula that we must use to calculate the tax

levy limit.

The property tax levy cap does not mean that your taxes will not increase. The 2% is on tax levy not taxes. For example, the Village of Hammondsport lost a major business and due to that situation, they will be seeing an increase in their taxes.

We, as elected officials are committed to maintain our current budget and when we are able to, will reduce our rate.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP AFTER THE HOLIDAYS:

Road side Christmas tree collection will begin January 3rd. Trees are picked up curb side, and brought to our chipper for mulching. We cannot accept trees with tinsel, lights, bagged trees or wrapped in plastic, flocked trees, trees with nails, artificial trees, or trees with any other metal attached. Thank you for your understanding.

Every effort will be made to collect trees promptly, but to ensure a quick pick up, please call the DPW at (562-8443 x224) to let us know your address.

We hope you have a great holiday season.

ELEMENTARY SUPPLY DRIVE

The Big Flats Elementary PTO would like to thank our Big Flats community for the donations that helped to support our MacArthur Elementary Supply Drive. MacArthur Elementary School in Binghamton was devastated by the flood of 2011. As a school and community, we came together in a time of need! We were

able to donate thousands of books, teacher supplies, student supplies and much more. Thank you again; the Big Flats Elementary PTO could not do what we do without the support of the wonderful staff at Big Flats Elementary, the many parent volunteers and the outstanding community support. A special thank you to

our Big Flats Community Center; Marge Tremaine, Trish Hartigan-Huten and the teen youth group who went above and beyond. Our drive was a GREAT SUCCESS!

Thank you.
Lynette Hampton and Jess Casey; Big Flats Elementary Co-Presidents

Our Youth have been quite busy...

For the last three months the Youth Department has been busy planning, organizing and participating in the Winter TAFFY/Bingo, Fall Festival, Senior Monthly Dinners, After School Programs, Job Workshops and Youth Employment Service.

We are now in our 3rd month of Winter TAFFY/Bingo where more than 150 children have attended.

Our After School Program has been very successful for the 3rd and 4th graders. During September and October the youth participated in the fall gardening class and have now started a cooking class that is taking place during November and

December. On Tuesdays and Thursdays the groups come to the Community Center to get a head start on homework and then take part in the activity planned for that month.

Our Youth Organization (YO) group has been quite busy the last few months. They've wrapped silverware, decorated placemats, made favors for the afternoon "Eat Well Live Well" senior citizens lunch group to honor Veterans Day and for the Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Dinner. The group also made posters, signs, and decorations for the Fall Festival. On November 18th 26 YO members went to see "Peter Pan" at the Clemens Center. What a great show and very well behaved

youth!!!

Our Teen Commission was very busy these last few months preparing for the 5th Annual Fall Festival and the 16th Annual Senior Night Out. The Fall Festival took place on Saturday, October 29th which more than 700 family and friends came to join in the chili/chocolate tasting. The judges and people choice were both on the same page choosing Amy LaCorazza for the favorite chili and Joe Scaptura's SCT BOCES Garden Café class took home the chocolate. Kids participated in the arts and crafts, danced and visited with "Casper the friendly ghost", "Elf" and even the Cowardly Lion" made an appearance.

COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATES:

- Tracey Wigley from 171 Cedar teaching **Beginners I International Latin Dance** Classes Monday evenings Jan 3rd from 7:30-8:30 pm. She will also present **Ballroom Blast and Latin Dance Party** beginning Jan 3rd at 9:30-10:30 am and 6:30-7:30 pm.
- **Defensive Driving Classes:** February 16 & 17, 2012 noon-4 pm and March 22 & 23, 2012 noon-4pm, to register, please call 562-8443, Ext. 303
- **Blood Drives** Jan.17, 2012 from 1-6 pm

Please visit our website and check out all our regular exercise classes, "crafty" groups, cards, and more which will be back in full swing. Our groups love having new members. All are welcome. For information on all activities at the Center, go to the Town website www.bigflatsny.gov, click on Community Center on the right hand side of the home page and scroll down to Monthly Activities. Of course, you can always stop at the Center or Town Hall and pick up a printed copy.

FROM THE DESK OF THE TOWN ASSESSOR: Please check your tax bills carefully and make sure that your exemptions are properly credited on the bill. If there are any questions, please call us at 562-8443 Ex: 210.

Renewal applications for Enhanced Star Exemptions were mailed out on December 1, 2011.

Renewal applications for Senior Citizens and all other exemptions were mailed December 30, 2011.

All exemption renewals and first time applications are due in the Assessor's Office no later than March 1, 2012.

Are you interested in supporting "The New Big Flats Times"?

Business and individual contributions are the primary source of funding for printing and mailing this newspaper.

Three issues are published per year—January, May and September.

Names of contributors will appear in each issue.

Yes, I would like to support "The New Big Flats Times" for the year 2012 as a

Business Sponsor: \$50 per issue—\$150 per year (circle your choice)

Business name as you would like it to appear: _____

Address/phone: _____

Individual Patron: \$25 per issue-\$75 per year (circle your choice)

Friend: \$15 per issue-\$45 per year (circle your choice)

Name as you would like it to appear _____

Address/Phone _____

Make checks payable to "Town of Big Flats" - memo line: NBF Times
Checks and forms may be left at the Town Hall / Community Center or mailed to:
Town of Big Flats, "The New Big Flats Times"

Big Flats Queens Pageant

This is the 54th year of our Big Flats Community Days Queens' Pageant, which is the traditional opening for Community Days. Eligibility requirements for contestants are Big Flats residency and girls must be ages 13-18 by June 7, 2012.

The Queens' Pageant provides an opportunity to develop teamwork, interview and presentation skills. Service to our community is also encouraged and promoted. The girls participate in the Queens' Tea held at the Big Flats Community Center, where they are interviewed individually by judges from our town. The pageant is held at the Big Flats Elementary School. The Queens and their courts serve the fish fry at Community Days and work together to decorate their float for the parade.

We are very fortunate to have the support of local businesses and organizations. Last year's sponsors were: *Big Flats Volunteer Fire Department, Big Flats Women's Club, Bright Ideas by Martinec, Shear Knowledge, Willow Creek Golf Club and Wren's Auto Center*. We also received donations from *Bobby K Entertainment,*

Charley's Grilled Subs, Cindy Sechrist (Mary Kay), DeMets, Denny's, TGI Friday's, Outback Steakhouse, Pudgies, Regal Cinema, The Dairy Barn and Restaurant 747. Gifts were provided by *Daniel O'Brien, Mike Nicolo, Applebee's, Hershey's Ice Cream, and Harnas Redit-Mart.* Generous donations to the Queen's Scholarship were made by: *Big Flats American Legion, Big Flats Senior Citizens, Miniers and Silicone Carbide Products.*

We also had the support of *Men's Wearhouse* who donated tuxes for the ushers, *Davis Garden Center* who provided stage plants, *Dean's Nursery and Florist* who supplied flowers, *Picnic Pizza* who donated pizza for our dress rehearsal, *Griswold's Florist* who donated roses and *Legendz* who provided 'sound' assistance for the pageant. The pageant would not be possible without the hard work of volunteers in our community. Our judges, the mistress of ceremonies (Nancy Swartz), our accompanist (Bonnie Miller) and our ushers helped so much. We are always looking for more volunteers to help

make the Queens' Pageant a success.

Danielle Alred, our Senior Queen last year, competed for several years. She wrote: "The pageant meant so much to me. Every year that I participated in the pageant I learned something new. I learned community, I learned friendship, I learned how valuable my voice is, but most importantly I learned about myself. I learned how confident I am and how I can impact the world. Through the pageant I became who I am today... a confident, poised, and beautiful adult." This year's Queens' Pageant theme is "A Famous American". Look for applications at the Community Center, Town Hall, schools, Shear Knowledge and other areas around town. There will also be a link to the Town of Big Flats website with an application form. Please join us. If you have any questions, call one of us:

Maureen Nicolo (739-8147);
Nancy Reidy (562-8268); or
Sandy Schultz (739-1593)



SPECIAL THANKS AND WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Thank you to Talisman and their staff for the donation and planting of several evergreens at Sperr Park. The planting was overseen by Mike Hess a retired New York State Trooper.

Thank you Skip Smith for the beautiful new Town of Big Flats sign and planter. It has made a big difference at the intersection of Maple and Canal Streets.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made our 5th Annual Fall Festival a huge success.

We would also like to thank Judy Kadlec for her dedication, hard work and services to the Town of Big Flats as the Secretary to the Big Flats Community Center. Best wishes to you.

Thank you Judy Zimmerman for your dedication, hard work and services to the Town of Big Flats as the Director of Recreation for the Big Flats Community Center. Best wishes to you.

Thank you Judge Charles Wood for your hard work and dedication to the Town. You will be missed.

Welcome Lisa Hess who is our newly elected Judge. We also welcome Town Board members Edward Fairbrother (re-elected), Andrew Gillette and Michael Saglibene.



**The New Big Flats
Times
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Sponsorships from the following local businesses/individuals enabled us to print and mail this newspaper. We are most grateful. Please show your appreciation for their generosity by supporting these businesses.

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